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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,641	10/09/2003	Robert C. Chang	SANDP037	8239

10027 7590 03/27/2006

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HIEP T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2187

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/682,641

Applicant(s)

CHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Hiep T. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 21-27 and 36-39 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20, 28-35 and 40-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/14/04 & 12/15/03.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-51 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 11-20, 28-35, 40-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
 - a. As per claim 11, line 4, the use of "substantially" in front of removing is vague and indefinite. What exactly does it mean by "substantially removing"? See also claim 28, line 6; claim 40, line 5.
 - b. As per claim 48, lines 11 and 20, similarly to claim 11, the use of "substantially" in front of "preventing" is vague and indefinite. What exactly does it mean by "substantially preventing"?
 - c. Claims 12-20, 29-35, 41-47 and 49-51 are rejected as including the deficiency in the corresponding independent claims 11, 28, 40, and 48.

Allowable Subject Matter


3. Claims 1-10, 21-27, and claims 36-39 are allowed over the prior art of record because none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests the claimed operation of identifying blocks within a non-volatile memory, as recited in the independent claims 1, lines 3-12; claim 21, lines 2-14; claim 36, lines 3-11.
4. As per claims 11-20, 28-35, 40-51, the allowability will be determined when the claims are amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as set forth above.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - a. Reddy et al., 5,377,146, teaches a main memory storage cells which are testable to determine individual defective elements.

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- b. Nakai, 5,691,786, teaches whether a defective storage element in a memory device can be repaired.
 - c. Matarrese et al., 6,563,732, teaches a flash memory device having storage elements for storing information identifying corresponding column of memory cells defective.
 - d. McCormack et al., 6,759,257, teaches a method for electrically testing the capacitors in a memory array to determine when capacitors are defective.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hiep T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4197. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.
7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Hiep T Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2187

HTN